

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35/97

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Demuth House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3606 Underwood Street

not for publication

city, town Chevy Chase

vicinity of

state Maryland

county

Montgomery

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Erick J. and P. M. Mueller

street & number 3606 Underwood Street

telephone no:

city, town Chevy Chase

state and zip code

Maryland 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Tax Map and Parcel

HN342; Lot 13, Bl. 4

city, town Rockville

state

Maryland

Liber and Folio

13679/0483

6. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Individually Listed in the National Register
☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ HSR or Research report at MHT
☐ Other:

7. Description

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Condition

☒ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count:

See attached.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Demuth House is a modest Craftsman style Four Square house, one of the earliest of its type in Otterbourne.

Fronting on Underwood Street (formerly Douglas Street) facing north, the 2-1/2 story, 3-bay house has an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The first-story walls of the main block have narrow clapboard siding while the second story is clad with shingle siding. Windows are 6/1 sash. The integrity of the house has been compromised with partial enclosure of the former full-width front porch.

The house remains on its original site, Lot 13, Block 4, consisting of 6,250 square feet.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology- prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1914	

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: **Piedmont**

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): **Agricultural/Industrial Transition**

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): **Architecture and Community Planning**

Resource Type: **Individual**

Category: **Residential**

Historic Environment: **Suburban**

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): **Residential**

Known Design Source:

CONTINUATION SHEET

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In August 1911 Jules A. Widmer purchased Lots 13 and 14 fronting on what was then known as Douglas Street from investor Louise Earll, widow of Robert Edward Earll, one of the original developers of Otterbourne. In 1913, unimproved Lot 13 was conveyed to Arthur B. Campbell, who had constructed a house by 1914, when the property was assessed for improvements valued at \$3,000. Campbell built three speculative houses in Otterbourne and Section 3 between 1913-1915 but apparently did not reside in the community.¹

In October 1914 the house was acquired by George S. and Belva M. Demuth, who previously had lived in Otterbourne on Percy Street (now Thornapple Street). The Demuths resided at what is now 3606 Underwood Street for about eight years.²

Otterbourne is a subdivision established in the Chevy Chase area by four investors: Robert E. Earll, Eugene B. Clark, Raymond Geare, and John Frank Ellis. The men purchased 14.4 acres from the Williams family in 1892, two years after the Chevy Chase Land Company purchased land to the south and west. For convenience, the plat for Otterbourne was filed under Ellis' name. The H-shaped plat was made in July 1894, oriented toward Brookville Road, an important early transportation route. The investors divided the lots among themselves, each one receiving a number equivalent to their respective interest in the original tract of land. Clark and Earll were the only two of the four to build and reside in Otterbourne.³

Otterbourne investors clearly saw the advantage of the property's location immediately adjacent to the Land Company's development. The name Otterbourne is a reference to the medieval Ballad of Chevy Chase, which had been the origin for the name of the Chevy Chase Land Company's real estate enterprise. It was on the plains of Otterbourne in Scotland that the armies of Lord James Douglas and Sir Henry Percy met in their fabled battle. Otterbourne benefitted from its close proximity to the Rock Creek Railway (1890), which ran along the newly

¹Deeds 222:356, 8/1/1911; 238:360, 10/22/1913. Tax assessment records, Annapolis, Maryland.

²Deed 246:325, 10/21/1914. Nelson Directory 1912.

³Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

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established Connecticut Avenue. Early residents had access to the trolley by way of a boardwalk from Delaware Street (formerly Dalkeith) to Connecticut Avenue. Otterbourne was absorbed into Section 5, and by the 1920s the east-west cross streets were extended out to Connecticut Avenue and Percy Street was renamed Thornapple Street.⁴

⁴Gwen Wright et al. "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997. Otterbourne Plat, Plat Book 1: Page 1 [Filed July 9, 1894]. William Offutt, History of Bethesda, pp. 173-4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35/97

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6,250 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	1/98
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

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3606 Underwood Street
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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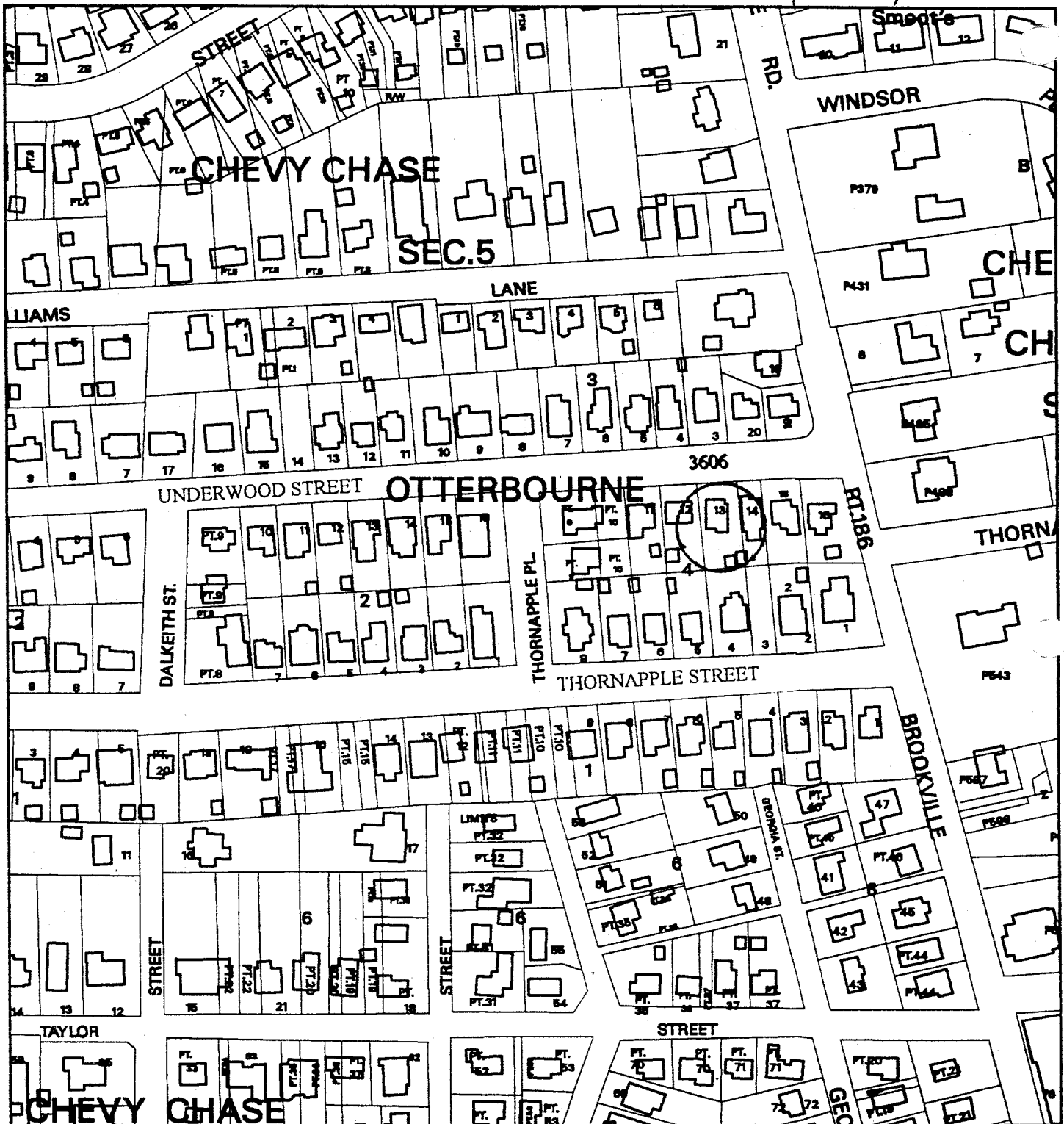
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VICINITY MAP FOR
OTTERBOURNE

4:35-97



Map compiled on January 13, 1998 at 10:50 AM

NOTICE

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
6707 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-1700

Key Map

